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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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**2013 Wisconsin Act 341**  
[2013 Assembly Bill 552]

**Definition and Practice of Dentistry**

2013 Wisconsin Act 341 makes several changes relating to state licensure of dentists. First, it replaces the prior statutory definition of “dentistry” with a definition that uses more general terminology. Prior law defined “dentistry” to mean “the examination, diagnosis, treatment, planning or care of conditions within the human oral cavity or its adjacent tissues and structures.” The definition further specified various activities included within the definition of “dentistry,” such as examining into the fact, condition, or cause of dental health or dental disease; extracting human teeth; administering anesthetics while performing or claiming to perform dental services; and penetrating, piercing, or severing the tissues within the human oral cavity.

The Act defines “dentistry” to mean “the examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prevention, or treatment, including surgery, of diseases, disorders, or conditions of the human oral cavity or its adjacent or associated tissues and structures, or of the maxillofacial area, and their impact on the human body.” The Act repeals the list of specific activities included within the definition.

Second, the Act specifies that a dentist licensed by the state may not perform dental services that are outside the scope of the dentist’s relevant education, training, and experience.

Finally, the Act expands an exception from the dentistry licensing requirement to make the exception applicable to any physician acting within the scope of a state physician license. Under prior law, the exception applied only to physicians who extracted teeth or operated upon the palate or maxillary bones and investing tissues, or who administered anesthetics.

*Effective date:* April 25, 2014.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.